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Docket No.: 50212-266

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Katsuya NAGAYAMA, et al.

Serial No.: 09/959,946

Filed: November 13, 2001

For: OPTICAL FIBER MAKING APPARATUS AND METHOD

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: Group Art Unit: 2874 1731
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: Examiner: J. Hoffman
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Office Action dated June 17, 2003, the Examiner imposed a Restriction Requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, requiring election of either:

- Group I. Claims 1 through 5 and 12 through 14 directed to an apparatus; or
- Group II. Claims 6 through 11 directed to a method.

In response, Applicants elect to prosecute method claims 6 through 11 (Group II).
Favorable consideration of method claims 6 through 11 is solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

09/959,946

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Am Steiner". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Arthur J. Steiner

Registration No. 26,106

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Date: July 16, 2003